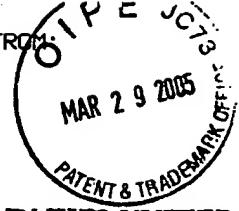


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

4/23/05
OK P. Scam

Appl. No. : 09/750,015
Applicant : Frederic Simard et al
Filed : 12/29/2000
TC/A.U. : 2661
Examiner : Anthony T. Ton

Docket No. : 13578
Customer No. : 000293

Confirmation No. 6375

**Attention: Mailstop AF
Amendment After Final
Expedited Handling Requested**

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action of December 29, 2004, please amend this application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.